

# Critical Questions for Establishing a Valid Teacher-Student Data Link

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For more information on the foundation's strategy, please visit:  
[www.gatesfoundation.org/education](http://www.gatesfoundation.org/education)



## Courses and Schedules

- Is there a statewide common course catalog?
- Does it cover elementary as well as secondary grade levels?
- Is it aligned to state content standards?
- Do districts have the ability to add local courses?
- Is there a course roster verification process for teachers?
- Is there a course roster verification process for principals?

# Unique Student Identifier

- Is there a Unique Student ID?
- Is it the student's SSN?
- Are there established protocols for linkage to the Unique Student ID?
- What student profile data is collected?
- Where is the student profile data housed?



## Unique Educator Identifier

- Is there a Unique Educator ID?
- Is it the educator's SSN?
- Are there established protocols for linkage to the Unique Educator ID?
- What educator profile data is collected?
- Where is the educator profile data housed?



## Daily Attendance/Membership

- Is attendance data recorded for individual students by course section at all grade levels?
- Is attendance data recorded for individual teachers by course section at all grade levels?

## Grades and Transcripts

- Are student grades in the state data system?
- Are student transcripts in the state data system?
- Do LEAs have the ability to transfer transcripts within their data system from school to school?
- Do LEAs have the ability to transfer transcripts to another LEA/school within their state?
- Do teachers have access to their students' transcripts?



## Assessment and Outcomes Data

- What individual student assessment data is included in the state data system?
- What individual student assessment data is included in district data systems?
- What other individual student outcome data is included in the state data system?
- What other individual student outcome data is included in district data systems?

## Data Linkages, Flow and Integration

- Does the state have access to longitudinal achievement data for students?
- Do districts have access to longitudinal achievement data for students?
- Do schools have access to longitudinal achievement data for individual students?
- Do teachers have access to longitudinal achievement data for individual students?
- Does the state have a learning management system?



## Data Governance Structure

- Does the SEA have a formal data governance structure and written protocols for data governance?
- Has information about the structure and protocols been communicated throughout the SEA?
- Do LEAs have formal data governance structures and written protocols for data governance?
- Has information about the structure and protocols been communicated throughout the LEAs and schools?

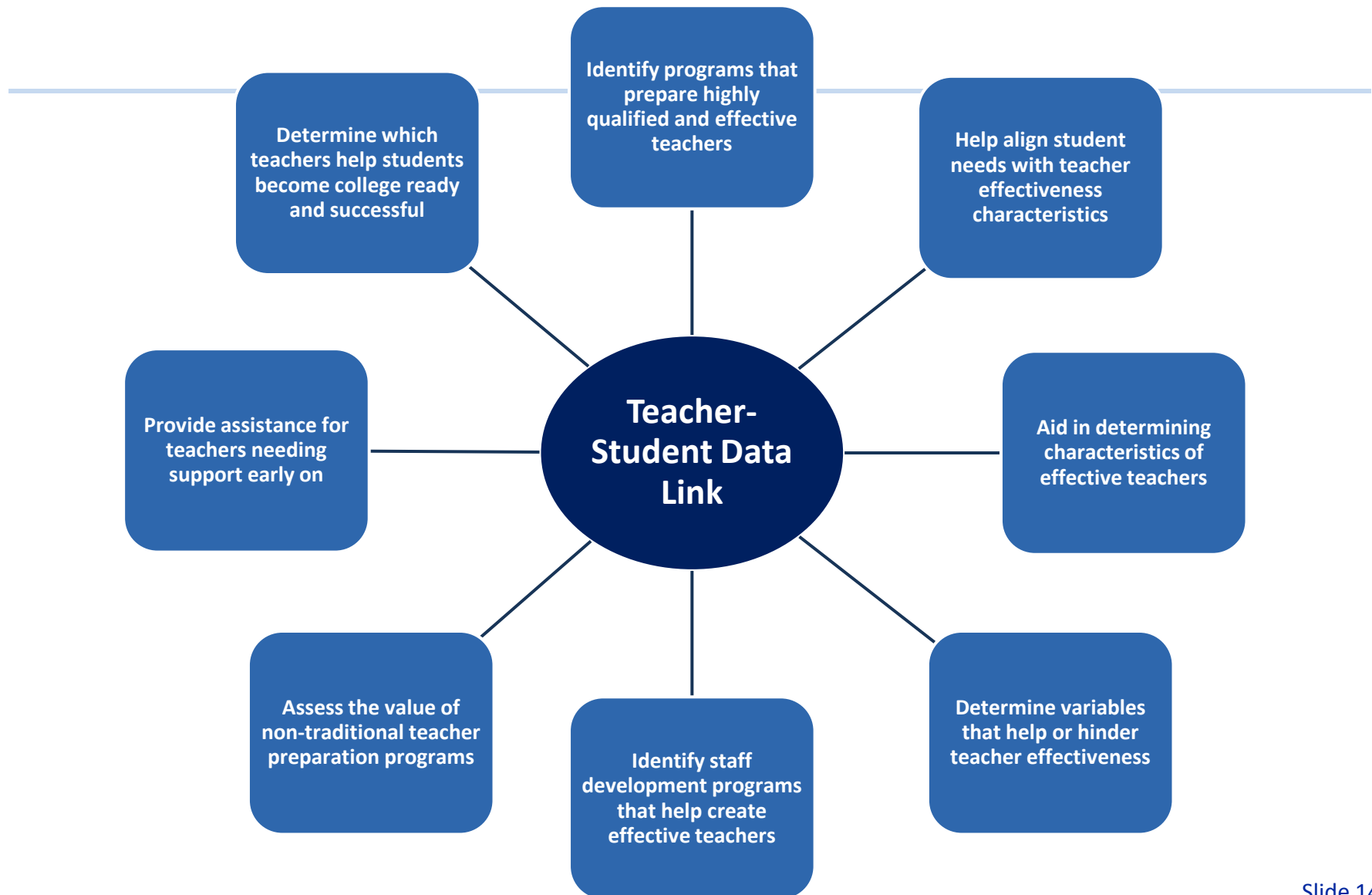
# Interagency Data Systems

- What data system links are there between the K-12 public education system and early childhood programs?
- What data system links are there between the public education data system and postsecondary/higher education?
- What other agencies does the public education data system link to?

## Uses and Purpose of TSDL

- Is this link being established for high stakes purposes, such as rewarding high-performing teachers based on student results?
- Will the link be established through the course-section scheduling?
- Does the state foresee a more nuanced connection being established through a learning management system to standards taught?

# Uses of the Teacher-Student Data Link





## Teacher of Record

- Does the state have a documented definition of Teacher of Record?
- What data elements are used in determining the Teacher of Record?
- Will multiple teachers of record be connected to an individual student for a specific course?

# Teacher of Record Definition Framework

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- The *Teacher of Record* definition framework is the starting point for a dialogue within and between SEAs and LEAs about the purposes, characteristics and data elements required for an effective Teacher-Student Data Link (TSDL).
- These discussions should include near-term uses of TSDL, as well as longer term uses that leverage emerging teaching practices and technologies.
- The framework provides the structure for a common understanding of the TOR concepts along with the flexibility for customization of the TOR definition to reflect each state's education policies and priorities.



## Teacher of Record Definition Proposed Template for State Customization

A Teacher of Record is an “**educator**” who is responsible for a “**specified proportion**” of a student’s “**learning activities**” that are within a “**subject/course**” and aligned to “**performance measures**”.

# Background Information on CELT

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For nearly two decades, CELT has helped align leadership, learning, and technology in support of improved student achievement, by working collaboratively with educational organizations to support and transform teaching, learning, and administrative processes. CELT's mission is to help learning organizations attain their vision, mission, and goals by integrating high-quality programs, services, and technology with the organization's people and processes in a timely, efficient, and cost-effective way. For the past several years, CELT has been a leader in assessing and designing learner-centered, instructionally focused, and affordable decision support/accountability systems that are valid, reliable, and replicable at the student, classroom, school, school district, state, and federal levels. In addition to helping establish data definitions and systems architecture, CELT assists with the alignment of data systems with contemporary research, best practices, proven business processes, and governance policies.





# Contact Information

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